



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

SOWINGS

October 2014

This issue is scheduled to come out, if all goes according to plan, the day before the annual NLA/NSLA conference in South Sioux City. This is a new location and there are some new ideas in how to hold the conference for this year.

In my opinion, the best parts of the conference aren't always the keynotes or the breakout sessions. Don't get me wrong, there have been amazing keynotes and awesome breakout sessions, but for me the constant value of conference is really in that time you spend together with other people in the profession. There is a some sort of reinvigoration that happens when that many people with similar goals get together. Although I am usually physically tired at the end of the event, my attitude towards the future of our profession is reenergized.

Online meetings are very good and the convenience of a webinar should not be ignored, but there is something about when you are in a room full of people hearing the same message, seeing the body language of the presenter and other attendees and reacting to each other in that setting that builds energy and understanding.

I know that for those of you who are running your library solo it can be really hard, and in some cases almost impossible, to get away to conferences and meetings. I also know some of you work multiple jobs, so even if the library is closed, you are still working elsewhere. I urge you to try and find a way to get to one library training session person a year. It doesn't have to be the NLA/NSLA Conference; it could be a workshop the Nebraska Library Commission puts on, or a workshop from us or a neighboring System. I hope you will find those experiences as rewarding as I do.

Scott Childers, Executive Director
Southeast Library System

In this Issue:

Page 1—Sowings

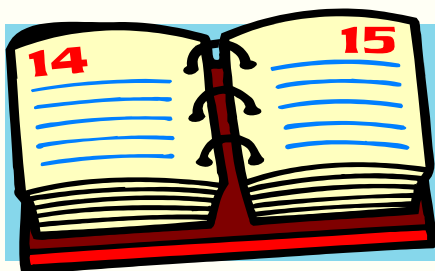
Page 2—Calendar

Page 3—Summer Reading Workshop Flyer

Page 4—CASTL Wrap-Up

Page 5-7—News Around the System

Page 8—Back Page



CALENDAR

October 2014

October 8th—10th—NLA/NSLA Conference in South Sioux City

October 13th—Columbus Day, SELS Office Closed

October 16th—World Food Day

October 17th—CASTL Meeting at Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City

October 25th—International Artists Day

October 29th—Cat Day

October 31st—Halloween

November 1st-30th—Picture Book Month ([see more](#))

November 2nd—Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 9th, 1989—Fall of the Berlin Wall

November 11th—Veterans Day, SELS Office Closed

November 12th—Pizza With the Works Except Anchovies Day

November 13th—CASTL Meeting at Gilbert Public Library, Friend

November 22nd—Go For a Ride Day

November 27th—Thanksgiving Day, SELS Office Closed

Photo of the Month



A man observes the damage done to the library at Dawson; [see page 6](#) for more details.

SELS Summer Reading 2015

November 7, 2014 from 10:00—4:00

Walt Branch Library, 6701 South 14th St., Lincoln

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10:00-10:15 | Registration & Refreshments |
| 10:15-11:15 | Nebraska Heroes with Dr. Jean Lukesh |
| 11:30-12:30 | Comic Books Just for Kids with George Matzen |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch Around Lincoln (On Your Own) |
| 1:30-2:00 | Sharing & Open Discussion |
| 2:00-2:50 | The Science of Heroes with Mrs. Science |
| 3:00-4:00 | Book Reviews with Sally Snyder |

Bring ideas, books, and projects! There will be plenty of discussion and time for sharing.



Name: _____

Organization: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Payment Included

☐ Pay at the Door / Will Send Payment Later

Earn 4.5 CE hours. Registration is \$15. Registrations must be received by November 4th at: SELS, 5730 R St. Suite C-1, Lincoln, NE, 68505; by email at selsne@gmail.com; or by fax at 844.270.7004.

Original Photo: Bahman Farzad (via Flickr)

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

October 17
Nebraska City

November 13
Friend

December 19
York

September's CASTL meeting was held on September 18th at Geneva Public Library, hosted by Sarah Johnson. The meeting began with the traditional round robin discussion of what everyone's been up to. Several people were putting the finishing touches on their strategic plans. Many libraries have infrastructure plans in the works: Fairmont is getting new sidewalks & street poles outside their building, Friend will be installing new windows, the lot across from the Seward library will be developed into parking, and Deshler will be building a new library entirely—the groundbreaking will be in March.

Lots of programming ideas were suggested. Geneva celebrated banned books week with caution tape and signs about why certain books were banned. York won vs. Seward in their Summer Reading Smackdown, which led to an interview with NPR. Weeping Water will be hosting a monthly LEGO club soon. Seward has been hosting several popular after-school programs, including chess days and movie days. Hebron has gotten good feedback about their adult reading program; their latest theme was human trafficking. Amish mystery books have been very popular lately at Shickley. Fairbury featured Mrs. Science & Singing Science as part of their summer reading program this year, & it was a big hit.

The afternoon discussion was about scare tactics, pressure sales, and scams. Oftentimes, vendors will call to offer you deals on services or products, and will be very friendly and persistent in order to get your business. They may offer to send you free samples, which are usually not very good quality. The best thing to do is to hang up, or to say that you only work with local services.

There's a lot of spam correspondence out there, as well. Mass form-letter emails are sent from "patrons" suggesting materials to add to "our" collection; these can just be deleted. Posters from "government agencies" may arrive in the mail that "must be posted" or you'll risk being fined, but in the fine print at the bottom, it'll say that it's not actually from a government agency. There's a lot of fraudulent mail that talks about "compliance" for various things, such as credit card transactions, that can be promptly ignored. Sometimes advertisements may come through the fax machine; these are easy enough to recycle, but don't fax back, because it'll confirm the fax number in the spammer's databases. You may not get any more from that particular vendor, but they will sell your number as "confirmed" to other sales groups.

Someone suggested a clever way to throw off vendors and spammers—just say that whoever is in charge of those decisions is not around that day. It's a really easy way to end those calls quickly. Otherwise, the best thing to do is to not engage these folks & turn down their offers as soon as possible.

News Around the System

Young Readers Invited to Write Authors

*Via the Nebraska
Center for the
Book*

Young readers in grades 4-12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for the Letters about Literature (LAL) contest, a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre-fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. This reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with the Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Library Commission, and locally supported by Houchen Bindery Ltd.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2015. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners will receive state prizes, and then advance to the national judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level (Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12) to receive a \$1,000 cash award, to be announced in May 2015. The judges will also select one National Honor winner on each competition level to receive a \$200 cash award.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details and entry forms, at www.read.gov/letters. Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Submissions from Grades 9-12 must be postmarked by December 15, 2013. Submissions from Grades 4-8 must be postmarked by January 15, 2014.

Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, mjryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.



Dawson Library Recovering from Hit-and-Run

By Joyce Huppert On the night of June 21st, 2014 an unknown person or persons hit the Dawson Library and took off leaving extreme major structural damage to our building (the books appear to be undamaged). At this time, no one has been found nor charged in this crime. However, we



are unable to repair the building because of the deductible amount on our insurance. We need to come up with \$2000. This is not an easy job in the town of Dawson because there are so few people. Some fund raising is being planned but we would appreciate any help we can get. Please contact: Dawson Library, c/o Carol Kean, 1220 Nemaha Street, Dawson, Nebraska 68337.

LEGO Day Held at Palmyra Library

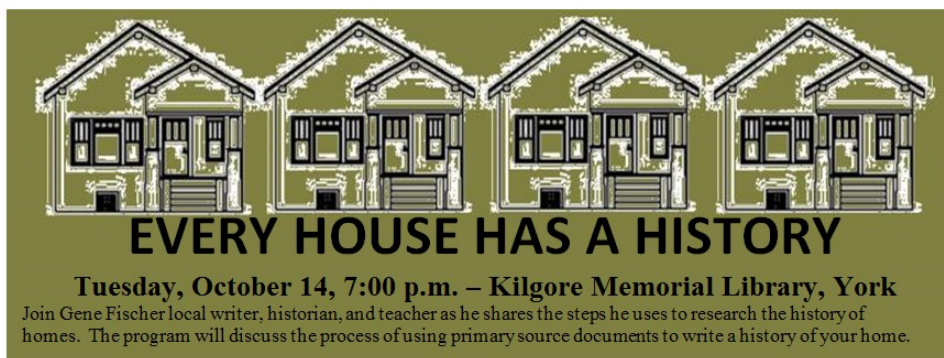
By Glenda Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted LEGO Day on Sunday, September 21. Both parents and children had a great time sharing projects they had made as well as creating new projects. This gave children (and parents) an opportunity to use their creativity and have some uninterrupted fun time.



'Every House Has a History' Workshop at York

By Deb Robertson Gene Fischer a local historian, teacher, and writer is going to lead a workshop titled, Every House Has a History on Tuesday, October 14th, at 7:00 pm. The program will discuss the process of using primary source documents to write a history of your home. Many of these documents are available at Kilgore Memorial Library located at 520 North Nebraska Street in York. The workshop is free of charge and open to the public. Questions about this event can be directed to Kilgore@cityofyork.net.



York to Hold Grief Support Workshop

By Deb Robertson We have partnered with the York County End of Life Partnership, a taskforce of the York County Health Coalition, to host this special community event. “A Little Grief Support for Harold Fry” will provide a unique view of the book – *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce. This program will be held in the library at noon on Wednesday, October 15th. This event will feature an “interview” with the novel’s main character, portrayed by Lincoln City Libraries librarian Layne Pierce, and insight into end of life support from regional grief experts. Additional details are available from our web site at libraries.ne.gov/York.

The event is free, open to the public and offers a unique, interactive perspective into the book’s main character and the processes of grief and healing. Through the generosity of a grant from the United Way of York and support from the Friends of the Library, a free lunch will be provided for all participants. RSVP’s are encouraged and appreciated by contacting the library at Kilgore@cityofyork.net or 402-363-2626. Audience members will be able to participate in the conversation, posing questions about grief and hospice to “Harold” and available grief support experts.

If this sounds more than a little familiar, our event was inspired by a similar event during One Book One Lincoln in 2013. A representative from Tabitha, Aloha Schmid, who works from the York office approached Deb Robertson, the York library director about partnering on this activity.

Exhibit Kickoff Event at Morton-James Library

By Louan Beard The Fantastic Future Me Tour sponsored by NEST, Nebraska’s 529 College Saving Plans, is featured at the Morton-James Public Library until the end of December 2014. The Fantastic Future Me Tour features an interactive exhibit where children envision themselves in future roles by creating personalized, one-of-a-kind avatars.

On September 16 the library held an Elementary Career Fair Exhibit Kickoff Event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg spoke, encouraging families to begin early to save for college. The library parking lot had vehicles to tour and professionals from the community were in the Kimmel Gallery for children to meet. Activities, crafts, prizes, piñatas and free hot dogs, cookies and cotton candy were part of the fun-filled evening.

In conjunction with the exhibit kickoff the library began a month-long observation of National Hispanic Heritage month. An amazing crowd of over 400 attended this event.



Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •
Richardson • Saline •
Seward • Thayer • York

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*Next to acquiring good friends, the
best acquisition is that of good
books.*

-Charles Caleb Colton

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: www.selsne.org.) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.